

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-20

CCO-00 FBO-01 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NIC-01 NSC-10

OC-06 OPR-02 PA-03 USSS-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01

OMB-01 SS-15 SY-10 NEA-10 SCS-03 CU-04 PC-04 DODE-00

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 EA-11 EUR-25 RSR-01 /175 W

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O P 132225Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2796

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

USCINCSO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUAYAQUIL 852

LIMA FOR RSO/PANAMA FOR SALG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, EC

SUBJ: STUDENT DISTRUBANCES

REF: GUAYAQUIL 848 (NOTAL) AND 850

1. LEFTIST STUDENT ELEMENTS HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN LOOKING FOR A MARTYR ON WHOM THEY COULD PEG ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIONS. THEY APPEAR TO HAVE FOUND ONE IN ROSA PAREDES, WHOSE DEATH THEY AND PRESS ATTRIBUTE TO BLOW FROM TEAR GAS BOMB.

2. A LOCAL MEMBER OF STAFF OF CONSULATE WHO KNEW ROSA PAREDES AND HELPED WITH FUNERAL EXPENSES BECAUSE FAMILY DESTITUTE SAID SHE WAS POOR, STRUGGLING, APOLITICAL TEACHER. BUT CHINESE-LINING COMMUNIST PARTY MARXIST LENINIST (PCE/ML) WAS ABLE TO TAKE HER FOR THEIR OWN MARTYR AND PUT UP GREAT BANNERS DURING THREE-DAY WAKE IN
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AUDITORIUM OF THE UNIVERSITY CLAIMING HER AS MILITANT REVOLUTIONARY,

WHETHER SHE WAS OR NOT.

3. IT WILL MAKE LITTLE DIFFERENCE THAT DEATH MAY HAVE BEEN FROM ANOTHER CAUSE, WITH INVESTIGATION ORDERED BY GOVERNOR, AND THAT PUBLISHED SWORN STATEMENTS OF THOSE WHO BROUGHT HER TO CLINIC INDICATE SHE FELL FROM STAIRCASE DURING DEMONSTRATIONS LAST FRIDAY. STUDENTS INVADDED CLINIC WHERE SHE DIED AND FORCEFULLY TOOK BODY TO UNIVERSITY, PREVENTING OFFICIAL AUTOPSY AND PRESUMABLY WHAT THEY BELIEVED WOULD BE OFFICIAL COVER-UP OF CAUSE OF DEATH.

4. TWO MORE DEATHS REPORTEDLY OCCURRING IN TODAY'S DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD PROVIDE MORE MARTYRS AND ADD FUEL TO FIRE.

5. RECENT BACKGROUND OF EVENTS INCLUDE MEETING OF SCHOOL TEACHERS' ORGANIZATION IN GUAYAQUIL (UNE) WHERE PROTEST WAS LODGED AGAINST SUB-DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EDUCATION FOR COAST, MICHAEL VICUNA (RECENT LEADER GRANTEE TO U.S.) AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION FOR SUSPENSION TWO TEACHERS WHO HAD CRITICIZED GOVERNMENT ON TV. ONE CRITICIZED GOVERNMENT FOR ITS POLICY AND ACTIONS IN GENERAL AND THE OTHER CHARGED THAT RECENT ALLOTMENT OF MONIES FOR ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS DID NOT REACH THEM, NOT EVEN FOR SINGLE PENCIL AND NOTEBOOK AT SOME GRADE LEVELS. THEY DEMANDED OIL REVENUES BE USED TO HELP LOT OF STUDENTS AND MISERABLY-PAID TEACHERS. MINISTER OF EDUCATION REACTION THAT HE HAD 14,000 UNEMPLOYED TEACHERS TO PUT IN PLACE OF THOSE COMPLAINING SERVED TO UNITE ALL TEACHERS, AND IN EFFECT EXACERBATE SITUATION. MINISTER EDUCATION RESPONDED AS EXPECTED TO DEMAND HE RESIGN WITH TRUCULENT REFUSAL TO DO SO. THE TEACHER, ROSA PAREDES, RECEIVED HER INJURIES IN MARCH AND DEMONSTRATION HELD AFTER THAT MEETING.

6. OTHER EVENTS OF PAST WEEKS, INSIGNIFICANT IN THEMSELVES, HAVE KEPT AUTHORITIES ON EDGE. NATURE OF THESE EVENTS, HOWEVER, KEPT PUBLIC OPINION ON SIDE OF AUTHORITIES. FIRST EVENT WAS WOUNDING OF STUDENT FROM VICENTE ROCAFUERTE HIGH SCHOOL BY TRAFFIC POLICEMAN WHO WITNESSED HIM ATTACKING ELDERLY MAN ON STREET CORNER AND ROBBING HIM OF 150 SUCRES. WHEN POLICE WENT TO HIS RESIDENCE TO PICK HIM UP HE REPORTEDLY ATTACKED POLICE WITH KNIFE AND THEY FIRED IN SELF-DEFENSE. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' ORGANIZATION (FESE) UNSUCCESSFULLY TOOK UP BANNER OF POLICE BRUTALITY AND ATTEMPTED STREET DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST AUTHORITIES. ANOTHER INCIDENT

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OCCURRED LAT LAST WEEK AFTER DEATH FROM DROWNING OF YOUTH WHO STUDENTS CLAIMED WAS PUSHED INTO WATER FROM A BOAT WHICH HAD BEEN APPREHENDED BY CUSTOMS POLICE UNDER SUSPICION CONTRABAND. FUNERAL PROCESSION REPORTEDLY CONTAINING STUDENT AGITATORS STONED CUSTOMS POLICE HEADQUARTERS ON WAY TO CEMETERY WITH BODY. AFTER DEVELOPMENTS OVER WEEKEND THESE EVENTS MAY BE DRAGGED OUT AND USED AGAINST AUTHORITIES TO BUILD CASE AGAINST GOVERNMENT OF BRUTALITY.

7. ANOTHER FACTOR ADDING TO TENSIONS IS INFIGHTING AMONG COMPET-
ING LEFTIST STUDENT GROUPS. THIS HAS BEEN OCCURRING FOR SOME TIME
WITH GOVERNMENT KEEPING OUT OF FRAY. LAST FRIDAY MORNING A GROUP
CALLED "ATALA" ATTACKED MEETING OF CHINESE-LINING UNIVERSITY
STUDENT FEDERATION (FEUE), FIRING INTO MEETING. WE HAVE REPORTS
ALSO THAT BOMBING AT CONSULATE GENERAL LAST SUNDAY AM MAY HAVE
BEEN BY GROUP CALLED FRIU (FRENTE REVOLUCIONARIA IZQUERDISTIA
UNIVERSITARIA) WHICH WANTED SHOWS ITS FOLLOWERS IT WAS ALSO
CAPABLE OF ACTION.

8. AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS TODAY (MONDAY, AUGUST 13) SITUATION
REPORTEDLY TEMPORARILY CALM. POLICE EXPECT ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION
AT 6 PM THIS EVENING IN PROTEST OVER DEATHS THEY REPORT OVER
POLICE RADIO NETWORK HAVE OCCURRED DURING FUNERAL TODAY. AFTER
FUNERAL STUDENTS ACCOSTED VEHICLE TWO BLOCKS FROM CONSULATE,
TURNING IT OVER. THEY WERE QUELLED WITH TEAR GAS. WE ARE GOING
HOME NOW AND WILL PLAY TOMORROW MORNING BY EAR ON BASIS REPORTS
OF DEVELOPMENTS AT THAT TIME.
LUBENSKY

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